

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 12 and 13. The status of the claims is as follows:

1-11. Canceled.

12. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display device comprising:
a liquid crystal cell comprising a pair of substrates, a liquid crystal layer
arranged between the pair of substrates, and a pair of electrodes for applying a voltage across
the liquid crystal layer;
first and second polarizers arranged on either side of the liquid crystal cell;
a first retardation plate arranged between the liquid crystal cell and the first
polarizer; and
a second retardation plate arranged between the liquid crystal cell and the
second polarizer;
each of the first and second retardation plates having an optical axis in a plane
parallel to the surfaces of the substrates ~~and a retardation of substantially $\lambda/4$, a retardation in~~
~~a plane of each of the first and second retardation plates being not less than 120 nm and not~~
~~more than 160 nm,~~ the optical axis of the first retardation plate being perpendicular to the
optical axis of the second retardation plate;
the first and second polarizers having polarizing axes arranged at an angle of
45° with respect to the optical axes of the first and second retardation plates, and at an angle
of 90° with respect to one another;

the liquid crystal layer of the liquid crystal cell being of a vertical alignment type, in which a state of alignments of liquid crystal molecules changes accompanying a change in a polar angle and a change in an azimuth upon an application of voltage, and containing a liquid crystal and a resin coexisting with the liquid crystal; and

at least one of the pair of electrodes being one of an electrode on which a linear structure of a bent shape is formed and an electrode having a slit of a bent shape;:

~~wherein polarizing axes of the first and second polarizers are at an angle of 45 degrees to directors of liquid crystal molecules in said liquid crystal layer when voltage is applied to said liquid crystal layer~~

a first optical film having a refractive index relationship of $n_x = n_y > n_z$ arranged between the liquid crystal cell and the first retardation plate;

a second optical film having refractive index relationship of $n_x = n_y < n_z$ arranged between the first retardation plate and the first polarizer; and

a third optical film arranged between the first retardation plate and the first polarizer or between the second retardation plate and the second polarizer.

13. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display device comprising:
a liquid crystal cell comprising a pair of substrates, a liquid crystal layer arranged between the pair of substrates, and a pair of electrodes for applying a voltage across the liquid crystal layer;
first and second polarizers arranged on either side of the liquid crystal cell;

a first retardation plate arranged between the liquid crystal cell and the first polarizer; and

a second retardation plate arranged between the liquid crystal cell and the second polarizer;

each of the first and second retardation plates having an optical axis in a plane parallel to the surfaces of the substrates and a retardation of substantially $\lambda/4$, a retardation in a plane of each of the first and second retardation plates being not less than 120nm and not more than 160 nm, the optical axis of the first retardation plate being perpendicular to the optical axis of the second retardation plate;

the first and second polarizers having polarizing axes arranged at an angle of 45° with respect to the optical axes of the first and second retardation plates, and at an angle of 90° with respect to one another;

the liquid crystal of the liquid crystal cell being of a vertical alignment type; a polymer network being formed in the liquid crystal layer of the liquid crystal cell;

the pretilt of liquid crystal molecules and an inclination direction of the liquid crystal molecules upon application of voltage being regulated by the polymer network; and at least one of the pair of electrodes being one of an electrode on which a linear structure of a bent shape is formed and an electrode having a slit of a bent shape;:

~~wherein polarizing axes of the first and second polarizers are at an angle of 45 degrees to directors of liquid crystal molecules in said liquid crystal molecules in said liquid crystal layer when voltage is applied to said liquid crystal layer~~

a first optical film having refractive index relationship of $n_x = n_y > n_z$ arranged between the liquid crystal cell and the first retardation plate;

a second optical film having refractive index relationship of $n_x = n_y < n_z$ arranged between the first retardation plate and the first polarizer; and

a third optical film arranged between the first retardation plate and the first polarizer or between the second retardation plate and the second polarizer.

14. (Previously Presented) The liquid crystal display device according to claim 12, wherein four domains, in which directions of alignment of liquid crystal molecule are different from each other, are formed in a pixel.

15. (Previously Presented) The liquid crystal display device according to claim 12, wherein a gate bus line, a data bus line, a thin film transistor, a subsidiary capacity electrode, and a pixel electrode are formed on one of the pair of substrates, and a color filter and a common electrode are formed on another of the pair of substrates.

16. (Previously Presented) The liquid crystal display device according to claim 15, wherein said linear structure are formed on said pixel electrode.

17. (Previously Presented) The liquid crystal display device according to claim 15, wherein said slits is formed in said pixel electrode.

18. (Previously Presented) The liquid crystal display device according to claim 15, wherein said linear structure is formed on said common electrode.

19. (Previously Presented) The liquid crystal display device according to claim 15, wherein said linear structure is provided at a position corresponding to one of said gate bus line and said subsidiary capacity electrode.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The liquid crystal display device according to claim 13, wherein four domains, in which directions of alignment of liquid crystal molecule are different from each other, are formed in a pixel.

22. (Previously Presented) The liquid crystal display device according to claim 13, wherein a gate bus line, a data bus line, a thin film transistor, a subsidiary capacity electrode, and a pixel electrode are formed on one of the pair of substrates, and a color filter and a common electrode are formed on another of the pair of substrates.

23. (Previously Presented) The liquid crystal display device according to claim 22, wherein said linear structure is formed on said pixel electrode.

24. (Previously Presented) The liquid crystal display device according to claim 22, wherein said slits are formed in said pixel electrode.

25. (Previously Presented) The liquid crystal display device according to claim 22, wherein said linear structure is formed on said common electrode.

26. (Previously Presented) The liquid crystal display device according to claim 22, wherein said linear structure is provided at a position corresponding to one of said gate bus line and said subsidiary capacity electrode.

27. (Canceled)